(c) the price charged under (a) and (b) and the reason for the difference, if any?

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—(a) and (b). Two statements furnishing the information are placed on the Council table.

(c) Vide the above-mentioned statements. In all Farms seeds, grains, etc., used for the Farm operations are charged at consumption rates and not at market rates. Hence the prices charged under (a) and (b) differ.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—In the answer we find a term as 'consumption rates.' I do not understand the meaning of that term.

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—They are rates at which seeds are consumed in the farm as well as in other farms. This rate is distinct from the market rates. Take the case of a farmer who has his own paddy grown in his farm. He is consuming that paddy for his own purposes. The market rate of the same may be 14 as. a para. But the actual cost to the farmer may not come to that. The actual cost of the seeds to the farmer is called the 'consumption rate'. This consumption rate is the actual cost price of the farmer.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—Is it cost price?

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—Yes, more or less.

Anjur road and bridge at Chiramakazha.

87. **Mr. K. T. Mathew.**—Will the Government be pleased to mention:—

(a) whether a petition dated 30th Edavam 1102, addressed to the Superintendent of Agriculture and Panchayats requesting to improve the condition of the Anjur road under the Arttatt Village Panchayat and construct a bridge at Chiramakazha has not been received;

(b) what will be the approximate cost for doing this;

(c) whether any reply has been sent to the petitioners; and if so, what is it;

(d) what definite action has been taken by the Government in this matter?

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—(a) Yes.

(b) Rs. 500.

(c) A reply was sent to the Panchayat stating that the matter might be renewed after the budget was passed and asking them to inform the petitioners also of it.

(d) Rs. 400 has been provided in the Panchayat budget of 1103.

Panchayat election rules.

88. **Mr. K. T. Mathew.**—Will the Government be pleased to inform:—

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(1) on what date the rules for regulating the conduct of elections in Village Panchayats were made applicable to nomination as well;

(2) whether a copy of this order will be printed and placed on the table;

(3) whether the Government have not considered till now the necessity of annulling this order; and, if so, why the rule has not yet been cancelled;

(4) whether in the matter of Municipal and Legislative Council nominations, is there any such order; and, if not, what reasons there are for retaining the order above referred to in the case of Panchayat nominations and whether that this order should be cancelled has not been brought to the attention of the Government?

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—(1) and (2). Only that portion of the election rules relating to qualifications and disqualifications was made applicable to nomination and not all the rules. This was by the Notification dated 17th August 1921 (1st Chingam 1097.) The relevant portion runs thus:—"In exercise of the powers conferred on him by section 7 of the Cochin Village Panchayat Regulation, V of 1089, the Diwan with the sanction of His Highness the Maharaja is pleased to notify..... that the qualification required of a person for being appointed as a member of the Village Panchayat shall be the same as those prescribed in Rule 1 of the Notification, dated 13th June 1921/ 31st Edavam 1096."

(3) The question of *cancelling* the rule has not been considered.

(4) There is no such rule in the matter of Municipal and Legislative Council nominations. In the case of Panchayat nominations the rule is retained because the reasons which made the Government prescribe it still hold good. A suggestion for modifying it was made in the Council.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—Do you know whether the Government's attention has been drawn towards the necessity of cancelling the present rule about nomination for the Village Panchayats?

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—Government are considering certain representations about the reduction of property qualifications for nominations to Village Panchayats. There are some representations that the property qualification is too much.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—Does it tantamount to the cancelling of the present order?

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—There are representations that the Rs. 25 assessment should be reduced.

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Mr. K. T. Mathew.—Did the Government consider that?

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—As I said the Government are considering whether the Rs. 25 assessment should be reduced or not.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—Did not the Government consider that aspect of the question?

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—Government are considering.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—The answer to my question is not so. The answer is 'The question of cancelling the rule has not been considered.' Suggestion was made in the Legislative Council for the cancellation. Did it not receive the consideration of the Government?

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—The question as regards representation that there should be no property qualification has not been considered by the Government, and that the Government do not propose to consider also.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—What was the suggestion made in the Council and what matter are the Government considering?

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—Government are considering the question of reducing property qualification for nomination to Village Panchayats.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—How long have they been considering the question?

President.—Ever since the matter came for consideration.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—How long have the Government been considering this matter?

President.—Can you say it to be one year?

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—More than that.

President.—Is it 2 years or 3 years, or 6 years or from eternity?

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—I do not exactly remember the date. But I know it has been under the consideration of the Government.

President.—Are Government causing undue delay in considering the matter? I mean you may consider ever since the commencement of the *Kaliyuga*. The question must be considered and disposed of in a reasonable time. You should not take undue long time. But how long are we considering this matter?

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—I want notice.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—What are the reasons which have persuaded the Government for the retention of the present rule?

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—The whole matter was considered at length at a conference four years ago during the time of Diwan Mr. P. Narayana Menon. Almost all the Panchayat-

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dars were present. It was the result of that conference that the property qualification is fixed at Rs. 25 assessment. So, the Hon'ble Member will be pleased to see that these rules were issued after considering the representations of all the Panchayatdars, i. e., of all the people of the State. And in order to issue a set of revised rules the matter requires very careful consideration.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—I submit that it is not an answer to my question. There may be 100 conferences. What are the reasons which persuade the Government for the retention of the present rule ?

President.—No specific reasons can be assigned by the Government.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—But there must be some specific reasons inducing the Government for passing such a decision.

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—The object with which the restriction regarding the property qualification were issued was that Panchayatdars were people to whom Government funds are generally given. Further they are not strictly speaking advisory bodies. They are executive bodies.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—Have any of the members of the Panchayat a right to utilise the Government grant other than the Panchayat President?

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—Panchayatdars have a right to utilise Government money with the consent of the Panchayat President.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—Do the Government know that no such rule exists in any other State in India ?

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—I want notice.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—How did the Government dispose of the suggestion made by the Legislative Council?

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—What suggestion?

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—Suggestions made here regarding the cancellation of property qualification in the cause of nominations to Village Panchayats.

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—Suggestions regarding property qualification for nomination to Village Panchayats are being considered by the Government.

Judgment of the Chittur Munsiff.

89. **Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.**—Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(a) whether any case in which wholesale slander of 'foreign Brahmins' is made in the judgment of the District Munsiff of Chittur has come up for appeal in the District Court of Trichur in 1102 ;

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